

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12  
DLOS-09 OIC-02 IO-13 AID-05 AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00  
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R 291110Z MAR 77  
FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA  
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY BANJUL  
AMEMBASSY BISSAU  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
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AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4716  
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS CASABLANCA 0343

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIS, FAO  
SUBJ: CECAF MEETING: SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. MISSIONS

1. COMMITTEE FOR EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERIES (CECAF)  
HELD ITS 5TH MEETING IN LOME, TOGO FROM MARCH 1-11, 1977.  
FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES RAISED ALONG WITH  
POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR ACTION POSTS.  
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2. MAJOR ISSUES:

(A) MOST FISHERY RESOURCES IN REGION (WHICH STRETCHES FROM  
MOROCCO TO ANGOLA) ARE NOW "HEAVILY" FISHED AND MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAMS (QUOTAS AND /OR FLEET LIMITATIONS) WILL BE REQUIRED OVER  
THE NEXT FEW YEARS. INCREASED FISHING FOR CERTAIN UNDERUTILIZED

SPECIES OFF MOROCCO. SIERRA LEONE, AND GABON HOWEVER CAN BE UNDERTAKEN.

(B) COUNTRIES OF CEEACF REGION ARE URGED TO OBTAIN STATISTICAL DATA ON FISHERY CATCHES FROM ALL NATIONS FISHING IN THEIR WATERS NEW BILATERAL FISHING AGREEMENTS SHOULD HAVE PROVISIONS FOR THIS TYPE OF REPORTING.

(C) EFFORTS TO TRAIN CEEACF COASTAL STATE STATISTICIANS AND MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS SHOULD BE INCREASED. TRAINING IN EXTENSION WORK, ARTISANAL FISHERIES, PROCESSING, AND MARKETING SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

(D) EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND TO CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH JOINT VENTURES SHOULD ALSO BE ENCOURAGED.

### 3. IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. MISSIONS:

(A) MANY COUNTRIES IN CEEACF REGION WILL NOW BEGIN TO TAKE CLOSER LOOK AT INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN FISHERIES. MANY FIRMS MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ENTER CERTAIN FISHERIES. ONE FIELD OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO US IS SHRIMP FISHING, WHICH IS CONSIDERED AS BEING "HEAVILY FISHED" IN GULF OF GUINEA.

(B) U.S. FIRMS GENERALLY ENTER INTO JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENTS WITH HOST COUNTRIES AND OPERATE UNDER LOCAL FLAG. MISSIONS GENERALLY SHOULD NOT HAVE PROBLEMS WITH SUCH FIRMS, BUT COULD INFORMALLY STRESS NEED FOR FIRMS TO COOPERATE WITH HOST GOVERNMENT IN PROVIDING CATCH STATISTICS, NO OTHER ACTION REQUIRED  
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AT THIS STAGE.

(C) APPLICATIONS FOR TRAINING IN FISHERIES STATISTICS OR MANAGEMENT MAY BE DIRECTED TO VARIOUS MISSIONS IN NEXT TWO YEARS. CONSIDERATIONS OF SUCH APPLICATIONS, AS SIGN OF U.S. INTEREST IN CEEACF

PRIORITIES, WOULD BE WELCOMED BY CEEACF.

(D) DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT VENTURES WITH U.S. FIRMS WHICH COMPLEMENT HOST COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PLANS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ENCOURAGED, PROVIDED PARA 3/A IS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATIONS.

4. U.S. GENERALLY RECEIVED FAVORABLE COMMENTS DURING COURSE OF CEEACF MEETING. ABSENCE OF LARGE-SCALE U.S. FISHERY OFF AFRICA, WILLINGNESS TO ESTABLISH 50/50 JOINT VENTURES, COOPERATION WITH HOST COUNTRIES, U.S. TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR HOST COUNTRY SCIENTISTS, AND U.S. SUPPORT OF CEEACF ALL CONTRIBUTED TO POSITIVE COMMENTS IN CONTRAST TO STRONG CRITICISM OF USSR WHICH TAKES ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF TOTAL CEEACF CATCH AND WHICH SELLS ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF ALL FROZEN

FISH (MOSTLY CAUGHT IN CEEAF WATERS) TO CEEAF COUNTRIES WITHOUT BELONGING TO CEEAF ORGANISATION, WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING REGION'S FISHERIES.

5. FOR AMEMBASSY LAGOS AND YAOUNDE. NIGERIA AND CAMEROONS ARE EXPECTED TO STUDY MANAGEMENT NEEDS FOR SHRIMP IN REGION. MISSIONS MAY WISH TO CONSIDER ADVISABILITY OF OFFERING SUPPORT, EITHER THROUGH SERVICES O U.S. BIOLOGIST, SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE, OR POSSIBLY THROUGH TRAINING PROGRAM IN SHRIMP BIOLOGY. BEFORE ANY OFFER IS MADE, HOWEVER, CONCEPT SHOULD BE EXPLORED WITH SECSTATE AND USAID IN WASHINGTON. THIS PROPOSAL IS RAISED BY REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE ONLY BECAUSE OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN SHRIMP INDUSTRIES

OF BOTH COUNTRIES WHICH COULD BE ADVERSELY EFFECTED IF MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED WITHOUT TAKING ADVANTAGE OF STUDIES IN SHRIMP BIOLOGY UNDERTAKEN IN U.S.

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